

CITY *Visions*

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF MORGAN HILL • FEBRUARY 2001

Save Water, Save Energy, Save Money

AS YOU know, the State is currently facing an energy challenge that can be expected to last for several months. We (both the City government itself and You) have been asked by the Governor to immediately reduce our energy consumption by 5%, and to strive for additional reductions in the coming months.

• SEE "SAVE" PAGE 5

New Butterfield Is Open

WITH THE completion of pavement striping, sidewalk, landscaping, and the powering up of street lights and traffic signals, the completion of Phase Three of Butterfield Boulevard moves the community one step closer to an alternative north/south route across town. In addition to helping in the city's overall economic growth by improving access to substantial tracts of commercial and industrial land, the completed Butterfield Boulevard will bring some traffic relief along Monterey Road.

This phase of work started at Main and runs north nearly one-half mile. This project, which commenced in late summer 2000, is unique in that it connected two previously finished sections of Butterfield. To the north of Phase Three is an already completed portion of Butterfield that starts at Cochrane Road and runs south through the Morgan Hill Business Park. To the south of Phase Three is that portion of Butterfield stretching from San Pedro Avenue to Main Street.

What's next? Planning has been underway for Phase Four of Butterfield Boulevard. Senior Civil Engineer

• SEE "BUTTERFIELD" PAGE 5

Library Building Committee To Meet

THE LIBRARY Building Committee is now working on developing the new library at the Main/DeWitt site. The Committee is comprised of Councilmember Steve Tate, several members of the Library Commission, the Deputy County Librarian, our Community Librarian, two School District representatives, the Chairperson of Friends of the Morgan Hill Library, and City staff. Public participation is encouraged. The Committee's work includes composing a joint use agreement with the school district, reviewing and updating the library building plan, and working with the architect on facility design. The Committee's efforts will target application preparation for the competitive Prop 14 Library Bond funding.

The Library Building Committee will be meeting the first Monday of each month. For more information contact Julie Spier, Recreation Manager at 779-7271 or Sarah Flowers, Community Librarian, at 779-3196. ☎

Article by Julie Spier, Recreation Manager, 779-7271,
Spierj@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov

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NOTES NEWS

SKATE PARK IS ROLLING ALONG

The interim skate park located next to the CalTrain parking lot on Butterfield has been in operation since December. A month of skating for boarders and bladers was available due to the cooperating weather. Over 200 anxious skaters showed up for the grand opening in December and the skate park has averaged an estimated 100 users per day.

The skate park's hours of operation are 10:00 am to 5:00 pm daily. The evening closing hours will follow daylight hours and will be adjusted as the year progresses. With the rainy season upon us, please note that the park will remain closed during rainy weather. City maintenance personnel perform daily maintenance prior to 10:00 am. The park is closed by the staff of South Valley Bikes, who also open and close the facility on weekends and holidays. South Valley Bikes has adopted the skate park and are registered volunteers with the City's volunteer program.

While the park is unsupervised, the Recreation Division and its volunteers make random inspections of the site and enforce the rules of the park. For more information, please contact the Recreation Division at 779-7271.

NEED TO REPORT A STREET LIGHT PROBLEM?

With darkness coming up much sooner at this time of the year, that broken street light you may not have paid much mind to earlier in the year, now becomes an important item on your "need-to-call list."

So, who should you call? Broken street lights need to be reported to Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E). Their number is 800-PGE-5000 (800-743-5000). When you call, be sure to have the following information available:

1. The light pole number (e.g., on metal poles it's usually in black numbers on white background at approximately eye-level).
2. The nearest address
3. The nearest cross street

Allow a two-week turnaround time for PG&E to make the service call. If after that time the light has not yet been repaired, contact Tina Rodriguez in the Public Works Department at 776-7337.

HAVING A SPECIAL EVENT ON PUBLIC PROPERTY?

Over the past year the Recreation Division has firmed up the approval process for holding a special event on city property. You might be asking, what is a *special event*? An event becomes a *special event* when any of the following occur:



- More than 50 people in attendance
- Selling or serving alcohol
- Entertainment (live music)
- Selling of food
- Entry fee charged

There is a special event application that needs to be completed and submitted to the Recreation Division. Applications must be submitted a minimum of 60 days before the event and no more than one year before the event. An application will not be accepted once the minimum 60-day deadline has passed. Applications are available at City Hall and also on the city's web page at <http://www.morgan-hill.ca.gov/parks/specialeventsapp.pdf>

SPORTS FIELD RESERVATIONS

Many of the City's sports fields can be reserved for use such as team practices or games. Unfortunately, space is very limited due to the loss of Live Oak's ballfields during the school's renovation. If you are interested in reserving a field, a sports field reservation form needs to be completed and submitted to the Recreation Division. These forms are available at City Hall and also on the city's web page at <http://www.morgan-hill.ca.gov/sportsform.pdf>

Reservation forms must be submitted at least ten working days prior to the requested dates(s). The Recreation Division is currently accepting reservation requests for the months of February through June. The Recreation Division will have a Sports Field Users Meeting on Tuesday, March 6 at 5:30 pm and will accept reservation requests for the months July through December 2001 at that meeting.



For more information about special events or sports field reservations, please contact Sandra Thomsen at 779-7271 or ThomsenS@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov.

Working to Keep Your Drinking Water Safe

Testing the City's water supply is a year-round task that your Public Works Department takes seriously. It's part of the job of operating a complex system comprised of 12 production wells, 110 miles of water main, 9 pumping stations, and 10 reservoirs. The City's water system has evolved over the years to meet the changing demands of the community. The system's complexity requires a carefully structured program of testing, monitoring, and maintenance to ensure that the water you get in your home when you turn on your tap is safe to drink, safe for all home uses, and meets or exceeds Federal and State regulations.

YEAR-ROUND TESTING

A full-time Water Quality Specialist takes samples year-round on a near-daily basis to ensure that the water flowing from your tap into your home is safe to drink, and free of unwanted contaminants. These samples are submitted to a professional testing lab, and the resulting reports methodically reviewed for any potential concerns that could compromise the safety of our water supply.

HOW OFTEN DOES THIS TESTING OCCUR?

For example, in 1999 the City took a total of 1,378 water samples, or, approximately 26 samples per week. These samples are systematically taken at each of the nine water pumping stations and at 36 water sampling stations located throughout the community.

Each year, the Public Works Department prepares a public report on the quality of the community's water. The report is distributed to all metered households and businesses served by the water



Photo Left: A typical on-the-job morning for Water Quality Specialist David Jelinek starts out with manually turning off the well pump at one of the well pump stations so that he can take a "sounding" at this location.

Photo Right:

Taking the "sounding": this procedure checks the static water level inside the aquifer itself to ensure that the water level is being replenished on a regular basis. A reading is also taken with the well pump turned on. All readings are noted in written records.



Utility News



Photo Above: David draws a water sample at one of the 36 water sampling stations located throughout the community.

Photo Center: David then proceeds to another well pump station to collect another water sample. Each sample is collected in a separate vial, with each vial noted with the date and location of the sample. This meticulous recording system enables any problem – or the appearance of a problem – to be tracked back to a specific source for immediate follow-up testing. All the samples are sent out to a professional testing lab for independent testing.

Photo Far Right: During normal business hours administrative staff, like Public Works Specialist Kay Sparling-Bravo, responds to notifications (an audio signal) on the radio-Telemetry communication system. This computerized system gives the on/off status of each booster station pump site and the water level of each reservoir (as each reservoir must be maintained at an optimum water storage capacity). Field personnel are immediately contacted by radio for every notification, and they then proceed to the site. During evening and non-office hours, notifications are automatically forwarded to Police Dispatch, which in turn contacts the on-call personnel at their home. This coordinated response system ensures that, regardless of the time of day or night, each notification is checked by trained personnel.

• "WATER" FROM PAGE 3

system. This Water Quality Report gives a "snapshot" of the quality of water provided in the previous year. It also tells where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares to State standards. Note: If you somehow missed this report, we'll be more than happy to mail you a copy. It's also found on the City of Morgan Hill website under www.morgan-hill.ca.gov/utility/watqul.)

Article by Jay Jaso, Management Analyst, 776-7337, jayj@pw.morgan-hill.ca.gov



THANKS FOR ASKING

Could there be "fish eggs" in my water?

Q: Sometimes I see what look like "fish eggs" in my water. Is this possible?

A: No. However, occasionally, a water softener may malfunction and release softening resin beads into the water. These are easily identified, since the beads are round and usually look like orange sand or "fish eggs." These resin beads can clog faucet screens, aerators and shower heads.

*If you have a question, please call 776-7333.
Some questions may be answered in this feature section.*

All of us are familiar with the concepts of turning off unnecessary lights, limiting our use of appliances, and turning down the thermostat. An additional conservation strategy you may not immediately think of is conserving water. Each drop of water that comes out of your tap requires energy to pump and pressurize the water delivery system. The less water we use, the less energy we need to pump water. For a handout on saving energy, call us at 779-7247. ☞

Article by Anthony Eulo, Assistant To The City Manager, 779-7247, teulo@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov

Julie Behzad describes what residents can expect to see next: "This is the part of Butterfield Boulevard that will bring it all together by connecting San Pedro Avenue to Tennant Avenue. The design work for Phase Four is scheduled to start soon, and we anticipate that the project could go out to bid in late 2001." In addition, plans to have Butterfield continue south past Tennant and then loop westward into Monterey near the intersection of Monterey and Watsonville are in the preliminary planning stages. ☞

Article by Jay Jaso, Management Analyst, 776-7337, jayj@pw.morgan-hill.ca.gov

Local Programming Channel 17

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

3/7 7PM Live	3/8 Noon Replay	3/11 Noon Replay
3/21 7PM Live	3/22 Noon Replay	3/25 Noon Replay
3/28 7PM Live	3/29 Noon Replay	4/1 Noon Replay

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

3/13 7PM Live	3/14 Noon Replay	3/17 Noon Replay
3/27 7PM Live	3/28 Noon Replay	3/31 Noon Replay

MORGAN HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MEMORIES-

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Sat/Sun	7PM
Mon/Tues/Fri	Noon

BICYCLE SAFETY

9:30AM & 4:30PM Daily

WATER WISE GARDENING AND GRASSCYCLING

10:30AM & 5:30PM Daily

Teen Zone Activities

RUBBER STAMPS THE FUN & EASY WAY

This class is designed for teens and adults who want to learn stamping basics without investing in a lot of stamps. There will be over 200 stamps to use and learn to be creative with. Other materials that will be available to use are embossing powders, crinkle press, scalloped and curvy scissors and more. Learn to make Easter Cards, Mother's Day cards, gift tags, scrap booking pages and more. There is no limit to one's creativity.

When: Fri., Feb. 23, Mar. 9, 16, 23, & 30,
from 7:00 - 8:30 pm
Location: Morgan Hill City Hall
Fee: \$25 /nonresident \$27
Materials fee: \$10 due at first class.
Instructor: Nancy Harris

YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (YAC)

is looking for youth to attend their monthly meetings to discuss the recreation and leisure needs of youth in the City of Morgan Hill. Please plan to attend the next meeting on Thursday, March 15th at 5:30 pm at the City Hall Council Chambers. Can't make the next meeting, then contact the Recreation Division to find out how to get involved. 779-7271 ext. 273.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ART ALA CARTE

Help with art activities on Saturday, May 12, 2001 10am-4pm. at P.A. Walsh School

If you are an arts and crafts enthusiast, love teaching children your hobby, and want to share your talent and craft with others, please contact Therese Luggert at the City Recreation Division 779-7271 ext. 273. We are looking for artisans and helpers for Art ala Carte, a hands on day of art for children ages 5-10. We need leaders to teach simple art projects that can be completed in 15 minutes or less. ☞

Article by Theresa Luggert, Recreation Supervisor, 779-7271, Luggert@morgan-hill.ca.gov



COMMUNITY Event CALENDAR

BLOOD DRIVE • FEBRUARY 28

Give the gift of life at the Red Cross Blood Drive at City Hall on February 28. Call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE for blood drive hours and an appointment.

MORGAN HILL LIBRARY

BOOK SALES •

MARCH 3 & MARCH 21

The Library holds book sales monthly.
Call 779-3197 for more information.

BELOW MARKET RATE HOUSING

INFORMATIONAL SEMINARS •

MARCH 8 & MARCH 22

Seminars are held monthly at the City Council Chambers. Call 776-7373 to reserve your space.

COMPOST WORKSHOP • MARCH 17

Attendees of Morgan Hill Home Composting workshops discover the benefits of gardening using their own compost. The next class is scheduled for Saturday, March 17, from 9-11 AM at the YMCA. To register for this free workshop, call the Home Composting Education Program at 299-4147.



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City Elected Officials

Mayor <i>Dennis Kennedy</i>	779-7259
Mayor Pro Tempore <i>Greg Sellers</i>	778-2370
Councilmember <i>Larry Carr</i>	779-9622
Councilmember <i>Hedy L. Chang</i>	778-0511
Councilmember <i>Steve Tate</i>	779-6992
City Clerk <i>Irma Torrez</i>	779-7259
City Treasurer <i>Michael Roorda</i>	778-3653



City Executive Staff

City Manager <i>J. Edward Tewes</i>
City Attorney <i>Helene L. Leichter</i>
Business Assistance/Housing Services Director <i>Garrett Toy</i>
Community Development Director <i>David Bischoff</i>
Council Services and Records Manager <i>Irma Torrez</i>
Finance Director <i>Jack Dilles</i>
Acting Human Resources Manager <i>Melissa Stevenson Dile</i>
Police Chief <i>Steve Schwab</i>
Public Works Director <i>Jim Ashcraft</i>
Recreation Manager <i>Julie Spier</i>



Contacting Your City

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8AM to 5PM
Address: 17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Animal Control	776-7300
Building Inspection	779-7241
Business Assistance & Housing Services	776-7373
City Clerk	779-7259
City Manager	779-7271
Environmental Programs	779-7247
Finance	779-7237
Fire Department (County Fire)	378-4010
Job Hotline	779-7276
Planning: Land Use / Zoning	779-7247
Police Administration	776-7315
Public Works	776-7337
Recreation	779-7271
Water	779-7221
Volunteer Programs	779-7278

City Hall Fax Number 779-3117
City Website: <http://www.morgan-hill.ca.gov>



Contact The Editor

Questions or comments about City Visions are welcome. Contact Editor Anthony Eulo at 779-7247 or environ@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov. City Visions is published monthly by the City of Morgan Hill.